**Standard Operating Procedure**

492. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to establish Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the defence forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are already existing at various levels within the defence forces. These operating procedures cover operational as well as administrative aspects and are validated/updated from time to time. In the interest of national security further details cannot be divulged on the Floor of the House in this regard.

**Exodus of officers from NTRO**

493. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Technical Research Organization (NTRO) set up following the Kargil war, is facing an exodus of officers due to suffocating working conditions because of which many officers are returning to their parent organization;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this organization is mandated to gather technical information on almost all issues, from external aggression to internal subversion, but was never equipped to do so; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Information can not be divulged in the interest of National Security.

**Permanent commission to women officers**

494. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about 1000 women in Army and around 570 and 160 in Air Force and Navy respectively;

(b) if so, the reasons that women officers do not get permanent commission;

(c) whether it is also a fact that since early 1990s women officers are being inducted into the Armed forces and depriving them permanent commission; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The present strength of women officers in Army, Navy, Air Force and Armed Forces Medical Service is as under:-

| Army | Navy | Air Force | Armed Forces Medical Service* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1072 | 175 | 661 | 3745 |

*Includes Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps and Military Nursing Services.

2. The women officers are appointed both in Short Service and Permanent Commissions in the Medical, Nursing and Dental Services. In these Services, Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers are also eligible for Permanent Commission.

3. The induction of women officers in the three Services started in 1992. Appointment of women officers has been progressively extended to different Arms/Services in these Services. They

are, however, not being commissioned into close combat Arms in the Army. In the Air Force, women are being inducted in all combatant streams except fighter stream. In the Navy, there have been restrictions in employing women officers onboard ships and submarines. Women officers are treated at par with similarly placed male counterparts in terms of recruitment, training, tenure of service, promotion etc.

4. The issues of combat employability and grant of permanent commission are interlinked. A study carried out by the Services on the issue in 2006 recommended that women officers be excluded from induction in close combat Arms where chances of physical contact with enemy are high. The study concluded that it was essential to obtain feed back on their performance based on revised pre-commission training (from 24 weeks to 49 weeks), detailment on courses such as Junior Command Course and assessment of their performance as sub-unit commanders especially in field areas for holding higher ranks and grant of Permanent Commission.

5. The matter has been reviewed further and the Government has recently approved a proposal to grant Permanent Commission to women officers prospectively in select branches (Judge Advocate General (JAG) Department and Education Corps of the three Services, Accounts Branch in Air Force and Naval Constructor in Navy).

**Welfare package of compensation**

495. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a vast difference in the welfare package of compensation given to the next of kin of personnel killed/wounded in different operations to those killed in Kargil; and

(b) if so, the details of the difference and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

***Statement***

*Details of welfare package of compensation*

*Comparison of compensation package is as follows :-*

*(Rs. in Lacs)*

| S. No. | Description | OP Vijay (Kargil) | Other events/ Operations |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | **Fatal Cases:** | | |
| (a) | Ex-Gratia (Central Govt.) payable to next of kin | 10.00 | 7.50 |
| (b) | Dwelling Unit | 5.00 | Nil |
| (c) | Parental Assistance | 2.00 | Nil |
| (d) | Children's Education | 2.00 | Nil |
| | TOTAL | Rs. 19.00 Lacs | Rs. 7.50 Lacs |